

Message Text

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15

ACTION SP-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 AID-20 SCI-06 PC-10

USIA-15 INR-10 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 EB-11

SWF-02 SS-20 NSC-07 RSC-01 DRC-01 IGA-02 /186 W

----- 072914

P R 071040Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5286

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA BY POUCH

AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR BY POUCH

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NAIROBI PASS TO RDOEA ARUSHA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XA/SWEL

SUBJ: DROUGHT IN EAST AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 087041 (B) DAR ES SALAAM 1149

(C) DAR ES SALAAM 0956 (D) DAR ES SALAAM A-62

(E) DAR ES SALAAM A-70 (PAGE 7 AND ENCLOSURE 2)

(F) DAR ES SALAAM 1193 (G) DAR ES SALAAM A-64

(H) DAR ES SALAAM A-52

1. SUMMARY: RECENT DROUGHT, FOLLOWED BY ABNORMALLY HEAVY RAINS,
HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED THIS SUMMER'S HARVEST OF STAPLE FOOD

GRAINS IN MUCH OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN TANZANIA. AGRICULTURAL
OUTPUT APPEARS LIKELY TO DECLINE 50 PERCENT OR MORE BELOW NORMAL

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PRODUCTION LEVELS IN THE UFFECTED AREAS. TO MEED DEMAND, TANGOV

IS MORE THAN COVERING PRODUCTION SHORTFALLS BY MAKING HEAVY PURCHASES OF FOOD GRAINS ABROAD. END SUMMARY.

2. IN REF B AND C WE REPORTED END OF DROUGHT BUT SUGGESTED THAT ADVERSE CONDITIONS CAUSED BY LACK OF RAINFALL WOULD NOT BE COMPLETELY CORRECTED BY HEAVY RAINS WHICH STARTED BEGINNING OF APRIL AND, WHILE DECLINING IN INTENSITY, HAVE CONTINUED INTO MAY. IN SOME CASES, IN FACT, RAINS HAVE CREATED PROBLEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, BRITISH COTTON EXPERT, WHO TRAVELS EXTENSIVELY SOUTH AND EAST OF LAKE VICTORIA, REPORTS THAT "VERY ABNORMAL DISTRIBUTION OF RAINFALL...HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED MOST AGRICULTURAL CROPS. CORN SOWN IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER HAS YIELDED MODERATE CROPS; THAT SOWN IN DECEMBER, A POOR CROP AND THAT SOWN IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY NO CROP AT ALL....THERE IS GOING TO BE A CORN SHORTAGE, YET AGAIN,..."

3. TANZANIA'S ROAD SYSTEM, APART FROM TWO HARD-SURFACE HIGHWAYS, IS POOR AND HEAVY RAINS HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO MANY OF AREAS HARDEST HIT BY DROUGHT. CONSEQUENTLY IT IS DIFFICULT TO GAIN CLEAR ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN INTERIOR. ONE RELIEF WORKER, WHO HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH ACCURATE INFORMATION IN PAST, IS NOW ASSESSING CONDITIONS IN ONE OF WORST HIT AREAS--MBULU DISTRICT IN NORTHERN PART OF DODOMA REGION. WE SHOULD RECEIVE HIS REPORT AFTER MIDDLE OF MAY. ALSO, RDOEA/ARUSHU IS PREPARING ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS IN ARUSHA REGION (NORTHERN DISTRICT WAS MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AREA BY DROUGHT), WHICH WE SHALL REPORT WHEN RECEIVED (RDOEA HAS NO SECURE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, AND DEPENDS ON IRREGULAR COURIER SERVICE).

4. REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED SUGGEST THAT CORN PRODUCTION IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS WILL BE THIRD TO HALF NORMAL CROP. EVEN IN CONTROLLED SITUATIONS, ON SEED FARMS AND STATE-OWNED GRAIN FARMS, WHICH HAVE AMPLE PRODUCTION INPUTS (TRACTORS, FERTILIZER, TRAINED STAFF, ETC.) CORN STALKS ARE TYPICALLY HALF NORMAL GROWTH AND GERMINATION HAS BEEN DELAYED. WHEAT CROP REPORTED TO LOOK MUCH BETTER BUT, AS WAS NOTED IN REF C, MANY OF WHEAT PRODUCING AREAS HAVE GONE OVER TO SEED BEANS AS EXPORT CROP. OUTLOOK FOR RICE CROP, AS DISCUSSED IN REF D, IS ALSO DARK WITH PRODUCTION LEVELS, AT BEST, 50 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL (THIS IS MOST DIFFICULT CROP TO FORECAST AS NEARLY ALL OF THE CROP GROWN BY SMALL-HOLDERS AND TANZANIA HAS NO SATISFACTORY AGRICULTURAL REPORTING SYSTEM TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AID FORECASTING). DROUGHT HAS ALSO REDUCED CATTLE HERDS, ALTHOUGH NOT TO EXTENT OF SITUATION AS REPORTED FROM KENYA, AND THOSE CATTLE WHO SURVIVED WILL REQUIRE TIME TO RECOVER.

5. AS WE SUMMARIZED IN REF E, TANGOV REACTED TO SITUATION BELATEDLY BUT WITH VIGOR AND HAS INITIATED MAJOR PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS WITH MAJOR EXPORTING NATIONS. TO MEASURE SIZE OF IMPORT PROGRAM, IN RECENT YEARS

STATE-OWNED MILLING COMPANY ESTIMATED ANNUAL MARKET DEMAND FOR CORN TO BE 170,000 TONS AND 72,000 TONS OF WHEAT. THUS FAR THIS YEAR, TANGOV HAS CONTRACTED FOR 180,000 TONS OF CORN AND 57,000 TONS OF WHEAT--WHICH IS IN ADDITION TO 50,000 TONS OF CORN AND 10,000 TONS OF WHEAT ESTIMATED WILL BE GROWN AND MARKETED BY TANZANIAN FARMS THIS YEAR. BY END OF THIRD QUARTER CY 1974, THANGOV PLANS PURCHASE ADDITIONAL 90,000 TONS OF CORN AND 33,000 TONS OF WHEAT. ANTICIPATING WELL BELOW AVERAGE CORN HARVESTS REMAINDER OF YEAR, TANGOV MAKING PLANS TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL 150,000 TONS OF CORN WITH DELIVERIES TO START FOURTH QUARTER (REF F). ADDITIONAL PURCHASES OF AUSTRALIAN WHEAT ALSO PLANNED. WE UNDERSTAND FROM CENTRAL BANK RESEARCH DIRECTOR THAT PRESIDENT IS CLOSELY FOLLOWING FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION AND HAS FORCEFULLY IMPRESSED ON APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS NEED TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE FOOD STOCKS. BANK OFFICIAL BELIEVES, AS DO WE, THAT TANGOV MAY BE OVER-REACTING AND IF 150,000 TONS CORN PURCHASED FOR DELIVERY IN FOURTH QUARTER, MUCH OF THIS WILL BE IN EXCESS OF NEED.

6. COMMENT: DROUGHT HAS HAD DAMAGING IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN MANY AREAS OF TANZANIA AND IT WILL TAKE ONE TO TWO YEARS FOR IT TO RECOVER. SITUATION MAY CAUSE TANGOV TO REASSES AGRICULTURAL POLICIES (THAT HAVE, BEFORE ADVENT OF DROUGHT, PRECIPITATED LONG-TERM DECLINE IN FARM PRODUCTION). MEANWHILE, TO COVER SHORT-TERM SITUATION TANGOV IS DOING ALL IT CAN TO MEET NEEDS OF POPULATION AND ANY FAILURE TO SATISFY THESE NEEDS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO CLUMSY BUREAUCRACY AND OVER-EXTENDED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. MOST FAR-REACHING IMPACT OF DROUGHT IS CERTAIN TO BE FELT ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (SEE REF D AND H) AND LARGE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MULTI-LATERAL AGENCIES AND BI-LATERAL DONORS LIKELY TO BE SOUGHT BY LATE IN CY 74.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, CORN, DROUGHTS, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DARES01405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740111-0471
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740569/aaaacsj.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SP
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 087041 (B) DAR ES SALAAM 1, 149
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DROUGHT IN EAST AFRICA
TAGS: SWEL, XA, XW, TZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005